

STATE SENATOR • GILDA Z. JACOBS • 14TH DISTRICT

Jacobs Press Release

P.O. Box 30036 • Lansing • Michigan • 48909-7536 • 517-373-7888 • Fax: 517-373-2983
E-mail: sengjacobs@senate.michigan.gov • www.senate.michigan.gov/dem/SD14



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 16, 2003

CONTACT: Sen. Gilda Jacobs (D-Huntington Woods)
(517) 373-7888

JACOBS' INSURANCE REFORM BILL SIGNED INTO LAW

(LANSING)---A bill sponsored by Senator Gilda Jacobs (D-Huntington Woods) to reform the small group insurance market was signed into law yesterday by Governor Granholm. Senate Bill 238 is part of a package of bills that is intended to protect small employers and employees from unfair insurance practices.

"This bill is an important first step in the regulation of the small group insurance market," said Jacobs. "Currently, Michigan is one of only three states that does not have some form of regulation over this market. As a result, rates are increasing at 30 percent a year, leaving employers with difficult decisions about renewing employee coverage."

Jacobs' bill, along with Senate Bill 234, will establish a rate band structure that health insurance companies must follow when offering services to customers. The Senate held numerous public hearings to gather input for this legislation. The Committee on Health Policy took testimony from small businesses and their employees, as well as Blue Cross Blue Shield and the commercial insurance companies.

"Affordable health care is of great concern to Michigan families and business owners," said Jacobs. "It is my hope that this legislation will be the catalyst for further discussion to find ways to help small business owners and their employees access high quality, affordable health insurance in Michigan."

Senator Gilda Jacobs represents the 14th Senate District, which includes Farmington, Farmington Hills, Ferndale, Hazel Park, Huntington Woods, Lathrup Village, Oak Park, Pleasant Ridge, Royal Oak Township, and Southfield.

#####